



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Fifth District

January 11, 2013

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS INSTRUCTING THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO REVIEW AND CAREFULLY CRAFT LANGUAGE FOR THE COUNTY'S STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT AMENDS CEQA TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY RESTRICTIONS AND JUDICIAL BARRIERS TO LOCALLY APPROVED PROJECTS (ITEM NO. 38, AGENDA OF JANUARY 15, 2013)**

Item No. 38 on the January 15, 2013, Board Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas instructing the Chief Executive Officer to review and carefully craft language for the County's State Legislative Agenda to support legislation that amends the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to reduce unnecessary restrictions and judicial barriers to locally approved projects.

**Review of County's Current Policy Platform**

As instructed by the Board, this office initiated a review of the County's current policy platform as it relates to CEQA. The County's 2013-14 State Legislative Agenda has five policies related to CEQA, all of which address either air quality or land use planning issues. Generally, these policies state that the County will: 1) oppose legislation which would provide broad and categorical CEQA exemptions; 2) support legislation which would provide public projects expedited judicial and administrative review procedures under CEQA; 3) support legislation which would provide narrow and tailored exemptions for essential public projects or projects that provide vital public services; 4) support legislation that would preserve the County's flexibility in making CEQA determinations as they relate to State's greenhouse gas

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emissions reduction efforts; and 5) support legislation that provides urban counties with the same authority that cities have under current law to exempt infill projects from CEQA.

The complete list of Board adopted policies included in the County's State Legislative Agenda for the 2013-14 session is attached.

This office also convened a CEQA working group comprised of the Board's planning, environmental and legislative deputies and representatives from the Department of Regional Planning, the Department of Public Works, and County Counsel to review the County's current policy platform as it relates to CEQA and to discuss how potential reform efforts by the Legislature may impact the County.

In order to facilitate the Board's discussion of possible changes to the State Legislative Agenda to ensure that the County's interests are protected, the departments have been asked to submit a list of suggestions of how CEQA can be streamlined and information on which administrative processes are essential to the County's regulatory processes. The working group will also review the environmental quality and protection laws in other states to see if and how they have dealt with similar issues as those raised by the CEQA reform advocates in California.

This office will report back with the working group's recommendations for a set of guiding principles and potential policy changes for consideration by the Board.

We will continue to keep you advised.

Attachment

WTF:RA  
MR:AO:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel

## Overview of the County's Current Policy Platform

The County's State Legislative Agenda has five policies related to CEQA:

### *Environment, Natural Resources and Recreation (Air Quality)*

- **2.1.12** - Oppose legislation that provides broad and categorical California Environmental Quality Act exemptions for the South Coast Air Quality Management District with respect to emission credits and the issuance of permits. **(Board approved motion on April 21, 2009)**

### *Land Use Planning*

- **3.2.11** - Support proposals to monitor regulatory proceedings initiated by AB 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), SB 97 (Chapter 185, Statutes of 2007), and SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) and advocate for regulations that would: 1) preserve the County's flexibility in making California Environmental Quality Act determinations; and 2) incentivize actions by the County and other local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and meet AB 32 mandates both through their operations and their regulatory authority. **(Board approved motion on November 18, 2008)**
- **3.2.12** - Oppose legislation that would grant the proposed City of Industry Football Stadium and Entertainment Complex an exemption from requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. **(Board approved motion on September 8, 2009)**
- **3.2.13** - Support legislation that provides urban counties with the same authority that cities have under current law to exempt infill projects from the California Environmental Quality Act, as long as those projects meet the additional requirement that they are located within a locally-designated Transit Oriented Development district, or are within one-half mile of a fixed rail transit station. Added on rec by DRP. **(Department of Regional Planning recommendation for addition to the State Legislative Agenda. Added, as amended by the Board, on December 14, 2010)**
- **3.2.14** - Support legislation that provides expedited judicial review processes, similar to those provided in SB 292 (Chapter 353, Statutes of 2011), for the development of projects that provide vital public services, including hospitals, health clinics, fire and police/sheriff stations, communication facilities/systems, libraries, schools, transportation projects, and other vital government capital projects in the County that serve the public interest, as well as commercial, sports, cultural, recreational, and clean energy projects. **(Board approved motion on September 27, 2011)**